

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-3, 5-9 and 20 allowed.

The closest relevant art is O'Dell (4,306,896) wherein O'Dell teaches an air filtration plant (2) comprising a filter cartridge (8) which are arranged vertically between two supporting structures (1 and 5), the upper end provided in an upper supporting structure with openings in the form of a plate fitted with openings, and the lower end (22) being attached to a lower supporting structure (27, 28) which includes means (20, 24 in Fig. 2) for fastening (25 in Fig. 3) the filter which is suited to enable tensioning at the upper end thereof (see Fig. 2, col. 2, line 57 through col. 3, line 12).

Claims 1-3, 5-9 and 20 of this instant patent application differ from the disclosure of O'Dell in that the upper end of the sleeve is provided with a structural element for easier gripping thereof, and the fastening mean, at the upper supporting structure consists of an add-on member located within the sleeve and thus independent from the upper end of the sleeve. In addition, the claims recite means plus function language, but there is no corresponding means plus function analysis as to what such structure in the specifications such means corresponds to.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MINH-CHAU T. PHAM whose telephone number is (571)272-1163. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon/Tues/Thur/Fri 7:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Duane Smith/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art  
Unit 1797

/Minh-Chau T. Pham/  
Examiner, Art Unit 1797  
April 20, 2010